

Message Text

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USINFO FOR PGM/RC

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. TEGUCIGALPA-INDEPENDENT MORNINGER LA PRENSA OF SAN PEDRO SULA, THE FIRST TO COMMENT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL OF JUNE 9 ENTITLED, "THE VOICE OF UNCLE SAM", SAW THE SPEECH AS AN ANSWER TO THE NATO NATIONS AND TO "AFRICAN LEADERS AND EGYPT AND ISRAEL" WHO HAD URGED THE WHITE HOUSE TO STATE ITS POSITION ON THE SOVIET OFFENSIVE IN AFRICA. THE ABOVE PLEA HAD ITS ADVOCATE IN ZBIGNEW BREZINSKI, SAYS LA PRENSA, AND THE OPPOSITE POSITION WAS HEADED BY SECRETARY VANCE.

2. LA PRENSA CONTINUES: "BETWEEN BOTH POSITIONS, CARTER SPOKE, AND SPOKE CLEARLY, ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND INTER-POWER RELATIONS, EXPRESSING 'THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT BE FRIGHTENED BY THE DANGER OF FACING THE SOVIET UNION IN THE AREAS OF WORLD CONFLICT BUT AT THE SAME TIME IS OPEN TO A PEACE AGREEMENT IN AFRICA AND, UNDERSTANDING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO END THE ARMS RACE. (CARRIED AS A CARTER QUOTE BUT PROBABLY TAKEN FROM AP DISPATCH.)

3. LA PRENSA CONTINUES: "CARTER'S NEW STATEMENT WHICH CAME AFTER A SILENT STRUGGLE BETWEEN BRZESINSKU AND VANCE, BETWEEN AUDACITY AND PRAGMATISM, HAS RENEWED HOPE FOR THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES THREATENED BY THE CUBAN-SOVIET INVASION AND HAS ENCOURAGED THE

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EUROPEANS, ALWAYS CONCERNED OVER THE PROXIMITY OF THE 'MOTHER NATION OF SOCIALISM' WITH ITS MILLIONS OF MEN UNDER ARMS AND A FORMIDABLE WAR MACHINE READY TO LAUNCH IT AGAINST THE NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS OF THE OLD CONTINENT."

4. LA PRENSA CONCLUDES: "IT'S DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT PUSHED CARTER TO A FIRMER STANCE. PERHAPS IT WAS THE EVIDENCE IN THE

POLLS OF A PROGRESSIVE AND SEVERE DECLINE IN HIS POPULARITY. BUT,
WHATEVER THE CASE MAY BE, THE ANNOUNCED DECISION NOT TO ALLOW MORE
SOVIET AGGRESSIONS IN AFRICA AND OTHER POINTS OF THE GLOBE,
ESPECIALLY IF IT IS FOLLOWED BY CONCRETE ACTIONS, WILL OBLIGE THE
USSR TO TONE DOWN ITS HOSTILITY, UNDER THE THREAT-IN SPITE OF
ALL THE DENIALS, CRITICISM AND DENUNCIATIONS-THAT UNCLE SAM MAY
DECIDE TO USE ALL OF HIS DESTRUCTIVE APPARATUS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE
IN THE MOST URGENT CASE, RESORTING TO THE USE OF THE TROUBLESOME
AND FORMIDABLE NEUTRON BOMB."
LANE

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